On page 32, line 30, change "Figure 10" to - - Figure 9- -;

On page 32, line 31, change "Figure 10" to - - Figure 9- -;

On page 33, line 30, change "Figure 10" to - - Figure 9- -;

On page 35, line 27, change "Figure 11" to - - Figure 10- -;

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please cancel Figure 11 and insert new Figure 11 attached hereto. Please add Figure 6 also attached hereto. Thereafter, please amend the drawings as indicated in red ink on the Figures attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel** claims 1-5.

Please **add** the following claims:

6. (New) A method for treating pain in humans for a time period of about 24 hours, comprising

preparing a solid, controlled-release oral dosage form, the dosage form comprising an analgesically effective amount of an opioid analgesic or a mixture of opioid analgesics or a salt thereof, said opioid analgesic being contained in a controlled-release matrix, wherein the dissolution rate in-vitro of the dosage form, when measured by the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm at 900 ml aqueous buffer at pH 1.6 and 7.2 and at 37°C is from about 12.5% to about 42.5% (by wt) opioid released after 1 hour, from about 25% to about 65% (by wt) opioid released after 2 hours, from about 45% to about 85% (by wt) opioid released after 4 hours and greater than 60% (by wt) opioid released after 8 hours, the in-vitro release rate being substantially independent of pH in that a difference, at any given time, between an amount of opioid released at one pH and an amount released at any other pH, when measured in-vitro using the USP Paddle Method of U.S. Pharmacopeia XXII (1990) at 100 rpm in 900 ml aqueous buffer is no greater than 10%, the in-vitro release rate being chosen such that the peak plasma level of said opioid obtained

in-vivo occurs at least 4 to about 8 hours after administration of the dosage form, said dosage form providing a duration of therapeutic effect of about 24 hours; and

administering said dosage form to a human patient at a dosing interval of about 24 hours.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic is selected from the group consisting of hydromorphone, oxycodone, morphine, levorphanol, methadone, meperidine, heroin, dihydrocodeine, codeine, dihydromorphine, buprenorphine, salts thereof, and mixtures thereof.

8. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises hydromorphone.

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises morphine.

10. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises oxycodone.

11. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid analgesic comprises an analgesically effective amount of matrix spheroids comprising said opioid analgesic or a salt thereof.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said spheroids are coated with a hydrophobic polymer selected from the group consisting an acrylic polymer; ethylcellulose, and a mixture thereof.

13. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the opioid is contained in a controlled release matrix which includes a polymer selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically

acceptable gum, an alkylcellulose, a cellulose ether, an acrylic resin, protein-derived materials, and mixtures of the foregoing.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the matrix further comprises a digestible substituted or unsubstituted C_8-C_{50} hydrocarbon.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty alcohols, mineral oils, vegetable oils, waxes and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

16. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said dosage form further comprises a polyalkyleneglycol.

17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said matrix spheroids include said opioid analgesic together with a spheronizing agent.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said spheroids comprise a binder selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy lower alkyl cellulose, an acrylic polymer, and mixtures thereof.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said spheroids are coated with a water insoluble material.

20. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the dosage form provides blood levels of hydromorphone over 500 pg/ml about 12 hours after administration to a human patient, and at least about 300 pg/ml about 24 hours after administration to a human patient.

21. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid consists of from about 4 mg to about 64 mg hydromorphone.

22. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid consists of from about 10 mg to about 400 mg oxycodone.

23. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said opioid consists of from about 15 mg to about 800 mg morphine.